

same nest, was dropped nearby by the same or another sparrow. Shortly afterwards two Grey-headed Sparrows were seen at the entrance of the martin's nest-hole. One entered the tunnel while the other sat on the edge and an apparently distressed martin flew about nearby. The sparrows stayed at the nest for several minutes before flying off at which point we also left.

As the sparrows were not taking the nestlings for food it would appear likely that they were intending to take the nest-hole over for themselves.

Grey-headed Sparrow nest sites include holes in buildings, and they have also been known to take over disused nests of other species (Summers-Smith 1988, Clement *et al.* 1993). However, we have found no reference to them, or to Grey-headed Sparrows in other parts of Africa, nesting in sandbanks or taking over nests that are already occupied (Keith *et al.* 1992, Turner & Rose 1989).

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A new location for the Usambara Eagle Owl *Bubo vosseleri*

Stuart & Jensen (1981) documented range extensions and other notable records of forest birds in Tanzania. Since then the University of Copenhagen has been carrying out biodiversity studies of the Udzungwa and Uluguru forest systems. These studies have already produced two new species and further range extensions for the Udzungwas (Dinesen *et al.* 1993, Jensen & Brøgger-Jensen 1992, Jensen 1983).

In November 1995, we visited the Uluguru montane forest and discovered another notable range extension. Having perused the draft Uluguru biodiversity report (Svendsen & Hansen 1995), we decided to camp at the junction of the Kihilili and Nyachiro paths at an altitude of 1550 m in the centre of the North Uluguru Forest Reserve. Our main purpose was to locate the Uluguru Bush Shrike *Malaconotus alius* but the draft report also indicated possible sightings of a large owl in that area.

On 22 November, at around 17:45, EM indicated that he had heard an owl reminiscent of the call that he had heard previously in the Usambara Forest, when accompanying David Moyer. No further calls were noted that night. During the following night at 03:30, all three of us clearly heard the call of *Bubo vosseleri* (formerly the Nduk Eagle Owl *Bubo poensis*), perhaps best described as a drawn out, quavering, haunting two-

noted slow engine beat. For the next half hour, it was heard clearly and regularly and this enabled CC to record the Uluguru call on cassette tape. On loud playback of *B. poensis* calls recorded by Dr F. Dowsett-Lemaire in Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda, the bird moved closer to us. A second bird was also stimulated to call briefly.

CC is fairly familiar with *B. poensis* calls from West Africa. Their similarity to the Uluguru calls, the birds' response to the recordings made by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire, and subsequent comparison between CC's Uluguru recording and the Cambridge Tanzania Rainforest Project recording of *B. vosseleri* from the Usambaras (Evans *et al.* 1994) confirm a range extension of the Ndus Eagle Owl for the Uluguru Forest. The Uluguru recording is being placed with the National Sound Archive at the British Library of Wildlife Sounds, London.

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Range extension of the Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

On 19 April 1997, I erected a single 12-m mist net to catch and ring birds at Raganga (0°36'S, 34°43'E), Kisii District, western Kenya. The netting site was about 5 m from a river bank covered mainly by dense bushes of *Sesbania sesban* (about 7 m high), interspersed with *Cyperaceae* sp. and *Hymenaea* sp.

At about 11:00, two firefinches *Lagonosticta* sp. were caught, which at first glance I thought were immatures or adult female Red-billed Firefinches *Lagonosticta*